

EPC 71 (12-16-03)

ALL PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

What is claimed is:

1. (Previously Amended) In a computer system including a clearinghouse component, a nonprofit component having one or more nonprofits, a supporter component having one or more supporters, and a merchant component having one or more merchants, with the clearinghouse component connecting the other three components via a variety of entry terminals, said computer system and said components having programs encoded on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps in a method, the clearinghouse component having recorded therein an individual identification number (ID) for each of the one or more supporters and identifications of each of said one or more nonprofits and said one or more merchants, the steps in the method comprising:

in said computer system, at an entry terminal of a merchant in a transaction, entering an ID and an amount spent by a supporter at the merchant;

in said computer system, having the entry terminal of the merchant record, in computer code, the ID as well as the amount of dollars spent in the transaction;

in computer code, uploading the ID and the amount entered to a central clearinghouse, wherein a program in said clearinghouse component has recorded therein, in computer code, a determination by said merchant of the amount of rebate available from said merchant;

in computer code, calculating in the central clearinghouse rebates determined by said merchant on the basis of purchases of the supporter from said merchant and to be paid by the merchant to the nonprofit; and

in computer code, deducting from the purchases of the supporter from said merchant the calculated rebates determined by the merchant and in computer code forwarding to said nonprofit the calculated and deducted rebates to be paid by the merchant to said nonprofit.

2.(Previously Amended) In a computer system having programs encoded on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, a method of accumulating credits for one or more organizations, comprising:

in the computer system, recording, on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, assigned identifications to one or more supporters, one or more merchants, and one or more organizations affiliated with the supporters and merchants during transactions between one or more supporters and one or more merchants;

in the computer system, associating, on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, the identification of a supporter and a merchant with an affiliated organization in response to each transaction between a merchant and a supporter;

in the computer system, on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, deducting and recording rebates determined by the merchant and to be

paid by the merchant to the affiliated organization, from a purchase of the supporter from said merchant in a transaction; and

in computer code, transmitting to the organizations a rebate, deducted from purchases of the supporter from said merchant in said transaction between said supporter and the merchant, and to be given to the organization.

3.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 2, wherein the steps of recording assigned identification are performed at a remote terminal of a merchant; and

the steps of associating, deducting, and transmitting are performed in a central clearinghouse.

4.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 2, wherein the organization is a nonprofit body, the one or more supporters shop at the one or more merchants, and the one or more merchants agree to pay rebates to the nonprofit body.

5.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 2, further comprising assigning identifications to each of said one or more supporters, one or more merchants, and one or more organizations.

6.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 3, wherein each the step of recording includes uploading each transaction to said clearinghouse and the step of transmitting includes downloading accumulated rebates to said remote terminals at said one or more merchants.

7.(Previously Amended) A computer program product encoded on a computer readable medium residing in a computer of a central clearinghouse, comprising a code that when executed on the computer perform the steps of:

assigning, in a code to be executed on the computer, to one or more organizations and one or more affiliated supporters and one or more merchants individual identifications;

maintaining, in a code to be executed on the computer, a schedule of rebates determined by each of the one or more the merchants due to each of the one or more organizations from each of the merchants;

collecting, in a code to be executed on the computer, from the merchant, during a transaction between a supporter and a merchant, the identifications of the supporter and the merchant;

calculating, in a code to be executed on the computer, the rebates due from the merchant to the organization; and

transmitting, in a code to be executed on the computer, to the one or more organizations, the amount of rebates determined by the one or more merchants and due the one or more organizations from each of the merchants.

8.(Previously Amended) A method utilizing programs encoded on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, said method comprising:

in computer code, entering in a clearinghouse computer network identification of merchants, identification of supporters associated with the merchants, and identification of nonprofit organizations associated with the supporters and the merchants;

in computer code, entering into said clearinghouse computer network a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations; and

in computer code, having payments credited, on the basis of said transactions and said rebate calculations determined by said merchants, from said merchants to said nonprofit organizations.

9.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the merchants, and the step of identification of supporters includes enrolling of supporters associated with the merchants and is performed at the remote terminals of the merchants; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, is performed in a central clearinghouse.

10.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein the nonprofit organization is a nonprofit body, the supporters shop at the merchants, and the merchants agree to pay rebates to the nonprofit body.

11.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein the step of having payments credited includes uploading each transaction to said clearinghouse and downloading accumulated payments credited to said remote terminals at said nonprofit organizations.

12.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations, and the step of entering identification of supporters includes enrolling supporters associated with the nonprofit organizations and is performed at remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; and

information concerning enrolling supporters uploaded by said remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations to a database in said central clearinghouse computer network.

13.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 12, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, said transactions define shopping activity, and said

payments represent calculated rebates, and said clearinghouse downloads reports on the shopping activity and calculated rebates due said nonprofit organizations to remote terminals operated by the nonprofit organizations.

14.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals operated by said supporters and said step of entering identifications of supporters includes supporters using said remote terminals to enroll themselves and select a nonprofit organization that will receive payments based on the calculated rebates; and

information concerning said enrollment is uploaded by said remote terminals to a database in said central clearinghouse computer.

15.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 14, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the transactions in the form of shopping activity and calculated rebates due said nonprofit organizations to remote terminals operated by said supporters .

16.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the nonprofit, and the step of enrolling supporters associated with the nonprofits are performed at the remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; and

said enrollment information is uploaded by said nonprofit remote terminals to a database in said central clearinghouse computer.

17.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 12, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the shopping activity and calculated rebates due said nonprofits to remote terminals operated by nonprofit organizations.

18.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals operated by supporters to enroll themselves and select a nonprofit organization that will receive the calculated rebates; and

said enrollment information is uploaded by said remote terminals to a database in said central clearinghouse computer.

19.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 14, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the shopping activity and calculated rebate due said nonprofits to remote terminals operated by said supporters.

20.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said process of entering the identification of the merchants, identification of the supporters, and identification of the nonprofit organizations includes enrolling of the merchants, the supporters, and of the nonprofit

organizations, as well as recognizing the merchants, the supporters, and the nonprofit organizations during said transactions.

21.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals at the nonprofit organizations, and the enrolling of supporters associated with the nonprofit organizations is performed at the remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, is performed in the central clearinghouse.

22.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals at the nonprofit organizations, and the enrolling of supporters and the merchants are performed at the remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

23.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the supporters, and the enrolling of nonprofit organizations are performed at the remote terminals of the supporters; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

24.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals at the supporters, and the enrolling of nonprofit organizations associated with the merchants are performed at the remote terminals of the supporters; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

25.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the enrolling of supporters associated with the nonprofit organizations are performed at the central clearinghouse; and

the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

26.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the enrolling of merchants associated with the supporters are performed at the central clearinghouse; and

the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

27.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the enrolling of supporters associated with the merchants and nonprofit organizations are performed at the central clearinghouse; and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse.

28.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 1, wherein the program in said clearinghouse component having recorded therein in computer code the determination of said

merchant of the amount of rebate available from said merchant, further including the determination of said merchant of the nonprofits to receive rebates from said merchant, the supporters who qualify for rebates by said merchant, and the required activity needed to qualify for a rebate; and the step of calculating in the central clearinghouse rebates determined by said merchant on the basis of purchases of the supporter from said merchant and to be paid by the merchant to the nonprofit includes agreeing on the supporters who qualify for rebates by said merchant, and the required activity needed to qualify for a rebate.

29.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 1, wherein said nonprofits enroll supporters, and enroll with one or more merchants where their supporters will shop.

30.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 1, further comprising said nonprofits encoding and entering data in said clearing house component to enroll supporters and enroll with one or more merchants where their supporters will shop.

31.(New) In a computer system including a clearinghouse component, an organization component having one or more organizations affiliated with one or more supporters, a supporter component having one or more supporters affiliated with one or more of the organizations, and a merchant component having one or more merchants, with the clearinghouse component and the merchant component being connected via one or more entry terminals, said computer system and said components having programs encoded on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps in a method, the clearinghouse component having recorded therein in computer code an individual identification number (ID) for each of the one

or more supporters and identifications of each of said one or more organizations and said one or more merchants, the clearinghouse component also having recorded therein in computer code information as to the selected relationship of each of said one or more supporters and said one or more organizations as well as said one or more merchants with each other, the steps in the method comprising:

_____ in said computer system, at an entry terminal of a merchant in a transaction, entering an ID and an amount spent by a supporter at the merchant in computer code;

_____ in computer code, uploading the entered ID and the entered amount to the central clearinghouse, wherein a program in said clearinghouse component has recorded therein, in computer code, a determination by said merchant of the amount of rebate available from said merchant;

_____ in computer code, calculating in the clearinghouse component a rebate determined by said merchant on the basis of the transaction to be paid by the merchant to the organization component; and

_____ in computer code, deducting from the amount entered in the transaction from said merchant the calculated rebates determined by the merchant and in computer code forwarding to said organization component the calculated and deducted rebates to be paid by the merchant to said organization.

32.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the rebate to be paid by the merchant to the organization is calculated at the clearinghouse in computer code on the basis of the amount entered in the transaction.

33.(New) A method as in claim 32, wherein the calculated rebate to be paid by the merchant is also calculated at the clearinghouse in computer code on the basis of amounts in prior transactions by the consumer at the merchant.

34.(New) A method as in claim 33, wherein the rebate to be paid by the merchant is also calculated on the basis of arrangement with the organization component.

35.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the organization component is a nonprofit component having a plurality of nonprofits.

36.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein said organization component includes one or more organizations which are nonprofits.

37.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the organization component includes a nonprofit body, the one or more supporters shop at the one or more merchants, and the one or more merchants agree to pay rebates to the nonprofit body.

38.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the step of forwarding includes downloading, in code, data concerning accumulated rebates to the merchant.

39.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein each transaction defines shopping activity, and said clearinghouse component downloads reports on shopping activity and the step of forwarding includes sending reports, in code, of rebates to the merchant.

40.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the step of uploading occurs on-line during the transaction.

41.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the step of uploading occurs on a batch basis at a time other than the transaction.

42.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the program in said clearinghouse component has recorded therein in computer code a determination of said merchant of the amount of rebate available from said merchant, further including the determination of said merchant of the organization to receive rebates from said merchant, the supporters who qualify for rebates from said merchant, and the required activity needed to qualify for a rebate; and

the step of calculating in the clearinghouse component rebates includes using the determination by said merchant on the basis of purchases of the supporter from said merchant and to be paid by the merchant to the nonprofit includes and on the supporters who qualify for rebates by said merchant, and the required activity needed to qualify for a rebate.

43.(New) A method as in claim 31, further comprising a step of enrolling and establishing a supporter ID using an entry terminal to select one or more organizations that will receive payments based on the calculated rebates; and

information concerning said enrolling step is uploaded, by said entry terminal used during the step enrolling to a database in said clearinghouse component.

44.(New) A method as in claim 42, wherein said clearinghouse component includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the transaction in the form of shopping activity and calculated rebate due said nonprofit organization to a remote terminal operated by said supporter.

45.(New) A method as in claim 44, wherein the step of enrolling a supporter is performed at a remote terminal of an organization; and

information concerning enrolling is uploaded by a remote terminal of the organization to a database in the clearinghouse component.

46.(New) A method as in claim 44, wherein said clearinghouse component allows a supporter to enroll and select an organization that will receive the calculated rebates.

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ALL PENDING CLAIMS IDENTIFYING AMENDMENTS IN SPECIFICATION

The Examiner insisted upon Applicant specifying location of each claim aspect in the specification. Applicant objects thereto, but is complying. It should be noted that these identifications do not limit the claims but are only entered to show support in the disclosure to the aspects of the claims. The claims stand alone without these entries.

What is claimed is:

1.(Previously Amended) In a computer system including a clearinghouse component, a nonprofit component having one or more nonprofits [Supported by but not limited to Fig. 1], a supporter component having one or more supporters [Supported by but not limited to Fig. 1], and a merchant component having one or more merchants [Supported by but not limited to Fig. 1], with the clearinghouse component connecting the other three components via a variety of entry terminals, said computer system and said components having programs encoded on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps in a method, the clearinghouse component having recorded therein an individual identification number (ID) for each of the one or more supporters and identifications of each of said one or more nonprofits and said one or more merchants, [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6] the steps in the method comprising:

in said computer system, at an entry terminal of a merchant in a transaction, entering an ID and an amount spent by a supporter at the merchant; [Supported by but not limited to Page 5 paragraph 3, and Page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3]

in said computer system, having the entry terminal of the merchant record, in computer code, the ID as well as the amount of dollars spent in the transaction; [Supported by but not limited to Page 5 paragraph 3, and Page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3, and Fig. 6]

in computer code, uploading the ID and the amount entered to a central clearinghouse, wherein a program in said clearinghouse component has recorded therein, in computer code, a determination by said merchant of the amount of rebate available from said merchant; [Supported by but not limited to Page 5 paragraph 3, and Page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3, and Fig. 6]

in computer code, calculating in the central clearinghouse rebates determined by said merchant on the basis of purchases of the supporter from said merchant and to be paid by the merchant to the nonprofit; [Supported by but not limited to Page 5 paragraph 3, Page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3, and Fig. 6] and

in computer code, [Supported by but not limited to Page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3, Fig. 6]deducting from the purchases of the supporter from said merchant the calculated rebates determined by the merchant and in computer code forwarding to said nonprofit the calculated and deducted rebates to be paid by the merchant to said nonprofit [Supported by but not limited to Page 5 paragraph 3, Page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3].

2.(Previously Amended) In a computer system having programs encoded on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, a method of accumulating credits for one or more [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6] organizations, comprising:

in the computer system, recording, on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, assigned identifications to one or more supporters, one or more merchants, and one or more organizations affiliated with the supporters and merchants during transactions between one or more supporters and one or more merchants[Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6];

in the computer system, associating, on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, the identification of a supporter and a merchant with an affiliated organization in response to each transaction between a merchant and a supporter; [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

in the computer system, on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, deducting and recording rebates determined by the merchant and to be paid by the merchant to the affiliated organization, from a purchase of the supporter from said merchant in a transaction; [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6] and

in computer code, transmitting to the organizations a rebate, [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6] deducted from purchases of the supporter from said merchant in said transaction [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6] between said supporter and the merchant, and to be given to the organization.

3.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 2, wherein the steps of recording assigned identification are performed at a remote terminal of a merchant; and [Supported by but not limited to p5 par 3]the steps of associating, deducting, and transmitting are performed in a central clearinghouse. [Supported by but not limited to Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

4.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 2, wherein the organization is a nonprofit body, the one or more supporters shop at the one or more merchants, and the one or more merchants agree to pay rebates to the nonprofit body. [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

5.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 2, further comprising assigning identifications to each of said one or more supporters, one or more merchants, and one or more organizations. [Supported by but not limited to P4, last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

6.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 3, wherein each the step of recording includes uploading each transaction to said clearinghouse and the step of transmitting includes downloading accumulated rebates to said remote terminals at said one or more merchants. [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

7.(Previously Amended) A computer program product encoded on a computer readable medium residing in a computer of a central clearinghouse, comprising a code that when executed on the computer perform the steps of: [Supported by but not limited to Fig. 1]

assigning, in a code to be executed on the computer, to one or more organizations and one or more affiliated supporters and one or more merchants individual identifications; [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

maintaining, in a code to be executed on the computer, a schedule of rebates determined by each of the one or more the merchants due to each of the one or more organizations from each of the merchants; [Supported by but not limited to Fig. 1]

collecting, in a code to be executed on the computer, from the merchant, during a transaction between a supporter and a merchant, the identifications of the supporter and the merchant; [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

calculating, in a code to be executed on the computer, the rebates due from the merchant to the organization; and [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

transmitting, in a code to be executed on the computer, to the one or more organizations, the amount of rebates determined by the one or more merchants and due the one or more organizations from each of the merchants. [Supported by but not limited to Fig. 1]

8.(Previously Amended) A method utilizing programs encoded on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps, said method comprising:

in computer code, entering in a clearinghouse computer network identification of merchants, identification of supporters associated with the merchants, and identification of nonprofit organizations associated with the supporters and the merchants; [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25]

in computer code, entering into said clearinghouse computer network a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations; [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25] and

in computer code, having payments credited, on the basis of said transactions and said rebate calculations determined by said merchants, from said merchants to said nonprofit

organizations. [Supported by but not limited to Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

9.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the merchants, and the step of identification of supporters includes enrolling of supporters associated with the merchants and is performed at the remote terminals of the merchants; [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25] and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, is performed in a central clearinghouse. [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

10.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein the nonprofit organization is a nonprofit body, the supporters shop at the merchants, and the merchants agree to pay [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, See P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6,] rebates to the nonprofit body.

11.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 9, wherein the step of having payments credited includes uploading each transaction to said clearinghouse and downloading accumulated payments credited to said remote terminals at said nonprofit organizations.

[Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

12.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations, and the step of entering identification of supporters includes enrolling supporters associated with the nonprofit organizations and is performed at remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 10] and

information concerning enrolling supporters uploaded by said remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations to a database in said central clearinghouse computer network.

[Supported by but not limited to Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

13.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 12, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, said transactions define shopping activity, and said payments represent calculated rebates, and said clearinghouse downloads reports on the shopping activity and calculated rebates due said nonprofit organizations to remote terminals operated by the nonprofit organizations. [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

14.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals operated by said supporters and said step of entering identifications of supporters includes supporters using said remote terminals to enroll

themselves and select a nonprofit organization that will receive payments based on the calculated rebates; [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25]and

information concerning said enrollment is uploaded by said remote terminals to a database in said central clearinghouse computer. [Supported by but not limited to Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

15.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 14, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the transactions in the form of shopping activity and calculated rebates due said nonprofit organizations to remote terminals operated by said supporters. [Supported by but not limited to Page , Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

16.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the nonprofit, and the step of enrolling supporters associated with the nonprofits are performed at the remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25] and

said enrollment information is uploaded by said nonprofit remote terminals to a database in said central clearinghouse computer. [Supported by but not limited to Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

17.(Previously Amended) A method as in claim 12, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the shopping activity and calculated rebates [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6] due said nonprofits to remote terminals operated by nonprofit organizations.

18.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals operated by supporters to enroll themselves and select a nonprofit organization that will receive the calculated rebates; [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, and Figs. 3 to 6] and

said enrollment information is uploaded by said remote terminals to a database in said central clearinghouse computer. [Supported by but not limited to Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

19.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 14, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the shopping activity and calculated rebate due said nonprofits to remote terminals operated by said supporters. [Supported by but not limited to Page 6 par 2, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

20.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 8, wherein said process of entering the identification of the merchants, identification of the supporters, and identification of the nonprofit organizations includes enrolling of the merchants, the supporters, and of the nonprofit

organizations, as well as recognizing the merchants, the supporters, and the nonprofit organizations during said transactions. [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, and Figs. 3 to 6]

21.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals at the nonprofit organizations, and the enrolling of supporters associated with the nonprofit organizations is performed at the remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25] and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, is performed in the central clearinghouse. [Supported by but not limited to Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

22.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals at the nonprofit organizations, and the enrolling of supporters and the merchants are performed at the remote terminals of the nonprofit organizations; [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25] and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse. [Supported by but not limited to Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

23.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals of the supporters, and the enrolling of nonprofit organizations are performed at the remote terminals of the supporters; [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25] and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse. [Supported by but not limited to Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

24.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes remote terminals at the supporters, and the enrolling of nonprofit organizations associated with the merchants are performed at the remote terminals of the supporters; [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25] and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse. [Supported by but not limited to Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

25.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the enrolling of supporters associated with the nonprofit organizations are performed at the central clearinghouse; [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25] and

the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse. [Supported by but not limited to Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

26.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the enrolling of merchants associated with the supporters are performed at the central clearinghouse; [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25] and

the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit

organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse. [Supported by but not limited to Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

27.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 15, wherein said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the enrolling of supporters associated with the merchants and nonprofit organizations are performed at the central clearinghouse; [Supported by but not limited to Page 4, Par 3, Page 4 lines 3 to 4, P4 last two lines to P5 line 25] and

said clearinghouse computer network includes a central clearinghouse, and the steps of entering a rebate calculation determined by said merchants on the basis of transactions with said supporters, for payment of rebates by the merchants to said nonprofit organizations, are performed in the central clearinghouse. [Supported by but not limited to Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6]

28.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 1, wherein the program in said clearinghouse component having recorded therein in computer code the determination of said merchant of the amount of rebate available from said merchant, further including the determination of said merchant of the nonprofits to receive rebates from said merchant, the supporters who qualify for rebates by said merchant, and the required activity needed to qualify for a rebate; and the step of calculating in the central clearinghouse rebates determined by said merchant on the basis of purchases of the supporter from said merchant and to be paid by the merchant to the nonprofit includes agreeing on the supporters who qualify for rebates by said merchant, and the required activity needed to qualify for a rebate. [Supported by but not limited

to P4 last two lines to P5 line 25, Page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, and Figs. 3 to 6; See especially Page 5, Paragraph 3]

29.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 1, wherein said nonprofits enroll supporters, and enroll with one or more merchants where their supporters will shop. [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 5, Page 9 line 4 to page 10 last line, and Fig. 4]

30.(Previously Added) A method as in claim 1, further comprising said nonprofits encoding and entering data in said clearing house component to enroll supporters and enroll with one or more merchants where their supporters will shop. [Supported by but not limited to P4 last two lines to P5 line 5, Page 9 line 4 to page 10 last line, and Fig. 4]

31.(New) In a computer system including a clearinghouse component, an organization component having one or more organizations affiliated with one or more supporters, a supporter component having one or more supporters affiliated with one or more of the organizations, and a merchant component having one or more merchants, with the clearinghouse component and the merchant component being connected via one or more entry terminals [Supported by but not limited to Fig1, page 4 line 5 to page 5 line 14] , said computer system and said components having programs encoded on computer readable media including codes that when executed perform steps in a method, the clearinghouse component having recorded therein in computer code an individual identification number (ID) for each of the one or more supporters and identifications of each of said one or more organizations and said one or more merchants, the clearinghouse component also having recorded therein in computer code information as to the

selected relationship of each of said one or more supporters and said one or more organizations as well as said one or more merchants with each other [Supported by but not limited to Fig 1, page 4 last 2 lines to page 5 line 14, page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, Figs 3 to 6] , the steps in the method comprising:

in said computer system, at an entry terminal of a merchant in a transaction, entering an ID and an amount spent by a supporter at the merchant in computer code; [Supported by but not limited to page 5 paragraph 3, page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3]

in computer code, uploading the entered ID and the entered amount to the central clearinghouse, wherein a program in said clearinghouse component has recorded therein, in computer code, a determination by said merchant of the amount of rebate available from said merchant; [Supported by but not limited to page 5 paragraph 3, page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3, Fig 6]

in computer code, calculating in the clearinghouse component a rebate determined by said merchant on the basis of the transaction to be paid by the merchant to the organization component; [Supported by but not limited to page 5 paragraph 3, page 13 paragraph 1 to 3, and Fig 6] and

in computer code, deducting from the amount entered in the transaction from said merchant the calculated rebates determined by the merchant and in computer code forwarding to said organization component the calculated and deducted rebates to be paid by the merchant to

said organization. [Supported by but not limited to page 5 paragraph 3, page 13 paragraphs 1 to 3, Fig 6]

32.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the rebate to be paid by the merchant to the organization is calculated at the clearinghouse in computer code on the basis of the amount entered in the transaction. [Supported by but not limited to page 2 paragraph 4, page 4 last 2 lines to page 5 line 25, page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, Figs. 1 and 3 to 6]

33.(New) A method as in claim 32, wherein the calculated rebate to be paid by the merchant is also calculated at the clearinghouse in computer code on the basis of amounts in prior transactions by the consumer at the merchant. [Supported by but not limited to page 5 paragraph 3]

34.(New) A method as in claim 33, wherein the rebate to be paid by the merchant is also calculated on the basis of arrangement with the organization component. [Supported by but not limited to page 5 paragraph 3]

35.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the organization component is a nonprofit component having a plurality of nonprofits. [Supported by but not limited to page 2 paragraph 4, page 3 last paragraph, page 4 lines 3 to 4, page 4 paragraph 3 and last paragraph]

36.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein said organization component includes one or more organizations which are nonprofits. [Supported by but not limited to page 4 lines 3 to 4, page 4 paragraph 3 and last paragraph]

37.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the organization component includes a nonprofit body, the one or more supporters shop at the one or more merchants, and the one or more merchants agree to pay rebates to the nonprofit body. [Supported by but not limited to page 4 lines 3 to 4, page 4 paragraph 3 and last paragraph]

38.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the step of forwarding includes downloading, in code, data concerning accumulated rebates to the merchant. [Supported by but not limited to page 4 last 2 lines to page 5 line 25, page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, Figs. 1 and 3 to 6]

39.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein each transaction defines shopping activity, and said clearinghouse component downloads reports on shopping activity and the step of forwarding includes sending reports, in code, of rebates to the merchant. [Supported by but not limited to page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 8, Figs. 3 to 6]

40.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the step of uploading occurs on-line during the transaction. [Supported by but not limited to page 6 paragraph 1]

41.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the step of uploading occurs on a batch basis at a time other than the transaction. [Supported by but not limited to page 6 paragraphs 1 and 2]

42.(New) A method as in claim 31, wherein the program in said clearinghouse component has recorded therein in computer code a determination of said merchant of the amount of rebate available from said merchant, further including the determination of said merchant of the organization to receive rebates from said merchant, the supporters who qualify for rebates from said merchant, and the required activity needed to qualify for a rebate; [Supported by but not limited to page 4 lines 3 to 4, page 4 last 2 lines to page 5 line 25, page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, Figs. 1 and 3 to 6] and

the step of calculating in the clearinghouse component rebates includes using the determination by said merchant on the basis of purchases of the supporter from said merchant and to be paid by the merchant to the nonprofit includes and on the supporters who qualify for rebates by said merchant, and the required activity needed to qualify for a rebate. [Supported by but not limited to page 4 lines 3 to 4, page 4 last 2 lines to page 5 line 25, page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, Figs. 1 and 3 to 6]

43.(New) A method as in claim 31, further comprising a step of enrolling and establishing a supporter ID using an entry terminal to select one or more organizations that will receive payments based on the calculated rebates; [Supported by but not limited to page 5 paragraph 2] and

information concerning said enrolling step is uploaded, by said entry terminal used during the step enrolling to a database in said clearinghouse component. [Supported by but not limited to page 5 paragraph 2]

44.(New) A method as in claim 42, wherein said clearinghouse component includes a central clearinghouse that downloads reports on the transaction in the form of shopping activity and calculated rebate due said nonprofit organization to a remote terminal operated by said supporter. [Supported by but not limited to page 4 last 2 lines to page 5 line 25, page 7 line 1 to page 13 line 18, Figs. 1 and 3 to 6]

45.(New) A method as in claim 44, wherein the step of enrolling a supporter is performed at a remote terminal of an organization; [Supported by but not limited to page 5 paragraph 2] and

information concerning enrolling is uploaded by a remote terminal of the organization to a database in the clearinghouse component. [Supported by but not limited to page 4 last 2 lines and page 5 paragraph 1]

46.(New) A method as in claim 44, wherein said clearinghouse component allows a supporter to enroll and select an organization that will receive the calculated rebates. [Supported by but not limited to page 4 paragraph 2]

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